

C. First Johnson

Mobile, Ala.

MR. JOHNSON is secretary and general manager of the Union Mutual Aid Association, district grand master of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows in America, and one of the wealthiest Negroes in Alabama.



C. F. Johnson

He was born in Haynesville, Ala., of former slave parents, soon after the war. He is the eldest of twelve children. He went to school occasionally, and in ten years "got about ten months of schooling, such as it was." The old "blue-back speller" was his first book, and he says that each year when school was out,—“and it was always ‘out’ when the children were needed on the farms,”—he was put to work with his parents and other relatives, chopping cotton, planting potatoes, plowing corn, and doing other farm work.

His first view of Montgomery was from the top of a bale of cotton, on which he ate and slept as his father drove in from the far-away country home. At the age of fourteen he entered the State Normal School at Montgomery from which he graduated. He left school and entered politics. He became secretary of the Executive Committee of the state, was at one time employed at the Mobile Custom House, and received minor appointments, among them a chance to run the Custom House elevator.

He gave up politics to enter business. He organized the Union Mutual Aid Association, and in this work, as its first and only general manager, he has demonstrated his executive and financial ability. When he began the work of the association his capital was so small he did not dare offer it for deposit.

The business has grown to such proportions that more than six hundred Negro men and women are now on his pay-roll, having profitable employment in industrial insurance endeavors. Many teachers, physicians, and others laid the foundations in the employ of Mr. Johnson, as solicitors for his Association.

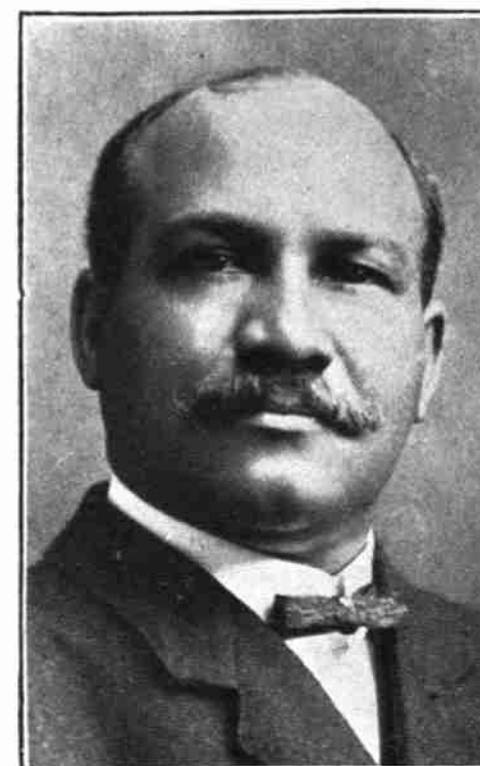
Mr. Johnson is a deacon of the Union Baptist Church and a trustee of Selma University. Some time ago he purchased as a home for his parents, who are still living, a part of the old farm of their former master. He is said to be worth about \$100,000.

George W. Cable

Indianapolis, Ind.

MR. CABLE is foreman of letter distributors in the Indianapolis post-office, president of Savings and Investment Association, and a public-spirited citizen.

He was born at Alton, Ill., in 1859. Soon after his birth the



G. W. Cable

family located in Macoupin County, where, after years of close application to his work, the father, George Cable, acquired a controlling interest in a steam sawmill. The hostile race feeling at the breaking out of the Civil War, and the more inviting timbered region of Michigan, were causes which led the family, with six children, to move northward. A steam sawmill was erected in the town of Lawrence, Mich., and the family was located on a tract of woodland, six miles farther north. It was here George was

reared, and where he laid foundations for future success.

His schooling consisted of the rudiments gained at a little country school during the four months' winter term. The rural life, which seemed to make "book learning" unnecessary; the Chicago fire, which destroyed large stores of lumber; and other reverses, left him without further schooling. But his love of books, and the resolution to never spend time in idleness, made it possible for him to become principal of one of the city schools of Topeka, Kan., in 1883. After eight years in Kansas, two years were spent as teacher in Indianapolis. In 1893 he entered the U. S. Postal Service.

For many years he has been identified with numerous help efforts among his people, having served as president of Flanner Guild, a colored Settlement House; president of the Industrial Savings and Investment Association, and chairman of one of the sections of voluntary probation officers of the Juvenile Court.

Mrs. Cable has for a number of years been a director of practice in the public schools of Indianapolis, and has taken a leading part in helping the home life of the children of her district by changing unsightly vacant spaces into gardens of flowers and vegetables. Their only child, Theodore, nineteen years of age, has entered Harvard College.